

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 9-42 will be pending in the application. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. New claims 41 and 42 have been added.

By present Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 26 have been amended to recite a panoramic visual images recording device and an associated directional sound capturing device positionable remotely from the panoramic visual images recording device. Basis for the amended claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 24-26. A non-limiting embodiment of the claimed sound capturing device positionable remotely from the panoramic visual images recording device is shown in Figure 4.

By present Amendment, claims 9, 25 and 40 have also been amended to recite that the method includes providing panoramic visual images from a panoramic visual images recording device and providing directional sound from a directional sound capturing device positionable remotely from the panoramic visual images recording device. Basis for the amended claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 24-26, and a non-limiting embodiment is shown in Figure 4.

By present Amendment, claims 20 and 39 have been amended to recite that the means for capturing directional sound associated with the panoramic visual images are positionable remotely from the means for capturing panoramic visual images. Basis for the amended claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 24-26 and a non-limiting embodiment is shown in Figure 4.

By present Amendment, claim 5 has been amended to recite an imaging system comprising a panoramic visual images recording device capable of performing a zoom function, an associated directional sound capturing device, and means for controlling sound from the sound capturing device according to the zoom function. Basis for the amended claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 24-28. Claim 6 has also been amended to recite that the means for controlling the sound from the sound capturing device includes means for controlling the sound balance. Basis for the amended claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 24-26.

New claim 41 has been added. Basis for the new claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 26-28. New claim 42 has also been added. Basis for the new claim language is provided in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 25-26.

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Driscoll, Jr. et al. According to the Office Action, Driscoll, Jr. et al. discloses a panoramic visual images display device and an associated directional sound playback device. It is submitted that amended independent claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 20, 25, 26, 39 and 40, and the claims that depend therefrom, distinguish over Driscoll, Jr. et al.

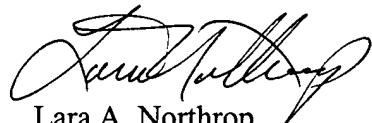
As shown in Figures 14a and 14b of Driscoll, Jr. et al., the directional microphones (1441, 1442, 1443 and 1444) are attached to or integrally formed with, the camera and parabolic mirror. Amended claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 26 and 40 recite that the sound capturing device is positionable remotely from the panoramic visual images recording device. Amended claims 20 and 39 recite that the means for capturing the directional sound is positionable remotely from the means for capturing the panoramic visual images. The use of a directional sound capturing device that is positionable remotely from the panoramic visual images recording device is not taught, suggested or contemplated by Driscoll Jr, et al. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 26 and 40, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over Driscoll Jr. et al.

Amended claim 5 recites that the imaging system comprises a panoramic visual images recording device capable of performing a zoom function, an associated directional sound capturing device, and means for controlling sound from the sound capturing device according to the zoom function. The use of a zoom function to control the sound from the sound capture device is not taught, suggested or contemplated by Driscoll Jr, et al. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 5, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over Driscoll Jr. et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 1-6 and 9-42 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4352 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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